

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01528 041215Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----041402Z 125390 /46

R 041127Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1528

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SU, US
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON USG/SUDAN BILATERAL TIES

SUMMARY: NIMEIRI INDICATED STATISFACTION WITH INCREASING
CLOSENESS USG/SUDAN BILATERAL TIES BUT OPINED
THAT WE SHOULD BE DOING MORE TO SUPPORT KHARTOUM'S
FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, NOTABLY IN PROVIDING MORE
DEFENSIVE WEAPONS TO ASSIST SUDAN IN MEETING THREATS
FROM MENGISTU'S ETHIOPIA AND QADHAFI'S LIBYA. END SUMMARY.

1. PAID MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MAY 3.
FONMIN KHALID WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT OUR HOUR-LONG
TALK BUT TOOK LITTLE PART. I BEGAN BY CONGRATU-
LATING NIMEIRI ON OUTCOME RECENT REFERENDUM AND SAID
REGRETTED I WOULD NOT BE PRESENT FOR HIS INAUGURATION
FOR SECOND 6-YEAR TERM MAY 24. NIMEIRI REPLIED
CORDIALLY, MAKING GRACEFUL REFERENCES TO
PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS DURING
MY TIME IN KHARTOUM. PRESIDENT SAID THAT, DESPITE
NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, RELATIONSHIP HAD DURING THIS
PERIOD BEEN TURNED AROUND AND NOW RESTED ON FIRM
BASIS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION. IN FACT MID-EAST
PROBLEM WAS ONLY ISSUE WHICH WASHINGTON AND KHARTOUM
VIPEWED DIFFERENTLY. HE THEREFORE FELT OUTLOOK

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EXCELLENT FOR EVEN CLOSER TIES IN FUTURE.

2. EXPRESSING MY APPRECIATION FOR HIS FRANKNESS
AND ACCESSABLITY DURING MY MISSION, I SAID I
FELT SUDAN AND U.S. HAD GOOD DEAL IN COMMON AND
THAT BASIS NOW EXISTED FOR
FRUITFUL MUTUAL COOPERATION. I TOLD HIM EMBASSY HAD

JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL C-130
SALES FORMALLY COMMUNICATED CONGRESS APRIL 29.
ASSUMING NO CONGRESSIONAL VETO, WHICH I SAID I DID
NOT EXPECT, TRANSACTION WOULD BE FINALLY APPROVED
MAY 29, AFTER WHICH USAF TEAM WOULD WISH VISIT
SUDAN TO DISCUSS MODALITIES. NIMEIRI EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION BUT SAID THAT SUDAN ALSO NEEDS DEFENSIVE
WEAPONS IN LIGHT AREA SITUATION (SEE SEPTTEL). I
EMPHASIZED DESIRABILITY ALLOWING 30-DAY
CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION ON C-130'S TO ELAPSE BEFORE
GETTING INTO ANY OTHER ARMS PROCUREMENT ISSUES.
NIMEIRI DID NOT PURSUE SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: MUCH OF OUR TALK DEALT WITH AREA
DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED SEPARATELY. HOWEVER, IT WAS
CLEAR FROM CORDIAL MANNER MY RECEPTION BY NIMEIRI,
AS WELL AS RESULTANT PUBLICITY IN GOVERNMENT-
CONTROLLED MEDIA MAY 4, THAT SUDAN GOVT IS PLEASED WITH
DIRECTION IN WHICH OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE
MOVING. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION, HOWEVER, BUT
THAT PRESIDENT WILL REQUEST US CONSIDER ADDITIONAL
MILITARY SALES, NOTABLY F-5E'S, ONCE C-130 HORSE IS

IN BARN. OUR ATTITUDE TO SUCH REQUEST WILL
OF COURSE INFLUENCE OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP, BUT
SUDAN IS IN ANY CASE LIKELY DESIRE USG PRESENCE IN ITS
COURT AS LONG AS ITS RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION
ARE SO STRAINED. BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO01528
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0587
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770596/aaaadfaw.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5283169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2647003
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON USG/SUDAN BILATERAL TIES SUMMARY: NIMEIRI INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH INCREASING CLOSENESS USG/SUDAN BILATERAL TIES BUT OPINED
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MASS, SU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5283169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009